

Beyond School

Your child may choose to leave school when they reach the age of 16.

In Scotland, if your child's 16th birthday falls within or between March and September, they can leave school in the May of that year. If their birthday falls between October and February, they can leave at the start of the winter holidays.

Alternatively, your child may choose to stay at school for (up to) an additional two years before leaving school.

By the time that your child leaves school, they will have gained skills and knowledge that will prepare them for the world beyond school. Even though they are leaving school, it is important that their education continues to be designed and developed around them as an individual.

Further/Higher Education

Lews Castle College UHI offers courses to develop skills and knowledge for work, continued study or general interest. Students can choose from a wide variety of courses – academic and vocational. There is also flexibility in how they study, including full-time, day release, evening, block release or on an online basis.

Many students combine part-time work with fulltime study.

Entrance requirements

Entrance requirements vary but most courses require some previous education qualifications. However, for people with very little previous educational attainment, special programmes are available, together with extended learning support arrangements.

Transition arrangements for students with additional support needs need to be considered with all the relevant agencies.

Courses and qualifications

Courses are available at a range of levels including:

- National Certificate modules or clusters of modules
- General Scottish Vocational Qualifications
- National Qualifications including project-based national courses and cluster units
- Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Degrees.

Financial help

- Eligible full-time students resident in Scotland – including EU resident students – pay no tuition fees. Some part-time students may have their fees waived. If students are taking a course at HNC level or above they should apply to the [Student Awards Agency for Scotland \(SAAS\)](#) for help with funding.
- Colleges also give financial help to students on certain courses. This can help towards maintenance costs, travel and study expenses. To find out more, contact the [college](#) and visit the [Scottish Government's Funding for Learners web page](#).

- The [Education Maintenance Allowances scheme](#) helps students who meet the eligibility criteria (see their website for details).

Related Links

- [UCAS - Universities and Colleges Admissions Service](#)
UCAS is the UK organisation for processing applications for entry to full-time undergraduate courses, HNDs and university diplomas.

Studying for a degree

Most students studying their first degrees spend three academic years to attain an ordinary degree or four years to attain an honours degree. Students can also study part-time.

The number of subjects studied and time spent in lectures, tutorials and practical work, and in the field, varies from year to year within courses.

(Adapted from [Education Scotland: Parentzone](#))

Learning Pathways in the Senior Phase and Beyond

Consider Lews Castle College UHI an option.

Have you considered that Lews Castle College UHI is an option for your child in the senior phase? We have a range of National 5s and Highers to choose from. Some young people prefer to leave school at the end of 4th year and continue to gain qualifications at college.

Lews Castle College UHI offers a wide range of courses and qualifications at different levels, leading on to work, other college courses or higher education.

Visit the Lews Castle College UHI [website](#) to see the wide range of learner opportunities.

The Senior Phase

All young people in Scotland have an entitlement to a senior phase which takes place from S4 to S6 in schools and **includes ages 16 to 18 out of school**. It is the phase when young people will build up a portfolio of qualifications. It is the stage of education at which the relationship between the curriculum and National Qualifications becomes of key significance.

What are Learning Pathways?

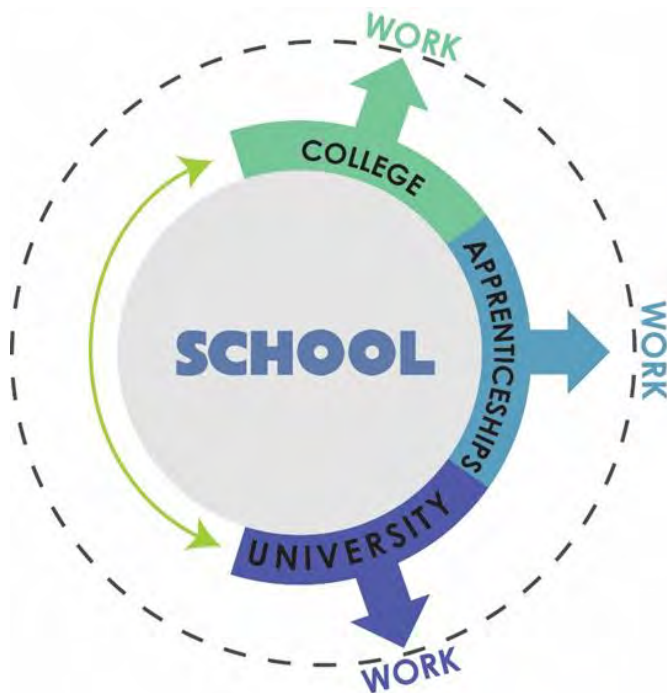
A learning pathway is a journey through education and training.

Learning pathways may involve taking courses and qualifications either full time or part time while learners are:

- at school
- at school and college (shared setting)
- undertaking an apprenticeship (with training at college/university and/or in the workplace)
- at work
- at university
- online
- in combinations of the above.

Learners can progress through their learning pathways, gaining qualifications, in several ways: full time at school, school/college, college or university or part time whilst at work, as part of an apprenticeship or through online learning.

Many of our students combine part-time work with fulltime study and some courses are devised to be flexible enough in order to facilitate this.



Understanding Learning Pathways: The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

Courses, qualifications and learning opportunities are the building blocks of developing skills and knowledge. The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) identifies qualifications at different levels. SCQF Levels 1 to 12 create a common currency between different courses and qualifications, which are delivered in various settings (school, college, work, university and online).

For more information, visit the SCQF [Interactive Online Version](#).